



"I have given an order to all my Bishops thruout the world that they must not abandon their places during the unhappiness which strikes the faithful, but to shepherd their flocks. The Bishop of Rome does not wish to be first to fail that order which he himself gave."—Statement attributed to POPE PIUS XII, when urged to move from the Vatican to his Summer residence outside Rome.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

WORLD WEEK

It would require a good deal of temerity to forecast, at this distance, our 1944 Presidential candidates. But if the portents hold, it seems a fair conclusion that our next President, whoever he may be, will have liberal inclinations and an international point of view.

While it cannot be said that Wendell L. Willkie achieved a victory at Republican nat'l committee meeting this week, it is evident that the forces of Gov. Bricker, of Ohio, under the direction of Sen Taft, suffered a defeat. The Taft scenario called for election of Werner Schroeder as nat'l chairman, succeeding Joe Martin, who is retiring. This appointment Willkie openly opposed. While the compromise selection, Harrison E Spangler, can't be described as a "Willkie-type" Republican, the appointment was "satisfactory" to the Willkie faction.

Importance of this strategic post is emphasized by a chronic condition resulting from what some observers term the "kept" Republican delegations of the south. Rival aspirants bring their southern "delegates" to the convention. It's up to nat'l chairman to rule which faction shall be given recognition. Thus, by electing a friendly chairman now, Bricker element would assure recognition of its candidates from the south, where there are no accepted Republican state organizations to settle such issues.

About all that can be said of the St. Louis meeting is that apparently it has been decided not to "freeze" Willkie out of the party. Truth is that titular head of Republicans wields more strength than is usually accredited to a defeated candidate. His stock slumped rather badly in November 1940; has been gradually ascending in an erratic pattern. There probably is some basis for belief that he is stronger politically today than at height of last election.

Shrewdly, Willkie has been garnering the minorities, which in the aggregate may some day help him to gain a majority. His defense of Jews has won him much Hebrew popularity, although statement that he controls 95 per cent of Jewish vote is obvious exaggeration. Currently, Willkie seeks Negro support, and has just been appointed to the board of Hope Institute, a Negro school.

AFRICA: We said at the outset Hitler might elect to make a strong stand in Africa. It is now clear that this is his intention. All possible reinforcements have been, and are being brought in. This week's virtual lull was due to Allied reorganization, but there's every indication that further strong offensives are in the making; may be under way by the time you read this.

If Montgomery appears to have "slowed down" in attack on Rommel, it must be remembered that British gen'l is now at the tricky point from which British were forced back by Axis a few months ago, due in some degree at least to supply difficulties. He must not again risk supply trouble. Heavy armor—a great massing of fire-power—will also be necessary to blast Rommel out of his strongly fortified position. However, once the

Quote

prophecies . . .

SPAIN—We do not agree with majority opinion that Franco was merely giving "lip service" to Axis in recent speech lauding Fascist ideals. We have held consistently that he is avowed Axis stooge. Our long-range view is that Spain will eventually be in the war—on Axis side.

FUEL OIL: All industrial users of oil, physically able to convert, will be forced to do so. Entirely possible that WPB may issue similar order for domestic users. If this comes, we think added burden on coal dealers (now that coke is about out) will result in great confusion and widespread suffering.

INVASION: Hitler decision to make strong stand in Africa necessarily slows Allied plan to invade southern Europe. Do not expect full-scale invasion before spring at earliest.

British Eighth Army breaks thru, Rommel's remnants face final disaster. There is not another satisfactory retreat for 300 miles.

Our long-range view of African situation is optimistic. We feel confident Axis will be blasted out; but it is going to take time. As Gen Arnold has pointed out, battles yet to be fought will determine air supremacy over Mediterranean, and quite possibly aerial supremacy over Europe as well.

FRANCE: Reports from London indicate French army balks at order to demobilize, surrender arms. Groups of officers and men have taken to countryside; are carrying on guerrilla warfare against German occupiers. Others have crossed Pyrenees into Spain, to be interned.

MANPOWER: QUOTE readers will not be surprised at turn of events. We said (11-23-'42) that McNutt appeared to be emerging as director of all manpower, including Selective Service. Sec'y Stimson fought the move bitterly. There was, and is, much criticism and dissatisfaction. McNutt had a good deal to do with decision to exempt older men from armed service. We think one eventual result of unified manpower command will be to reduce or stabilize various branches of armed service, putting more emphasis on production of war material.

... — Have you heard of restaurant proprietor who fired trusted waitress—smelled coffee on her breath!

Francis D. ...

Publisher.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted"—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"The production tasks of 1942 seem easy compared to those which lie ahead. In 1942, we were still living off our peacetime fat. We are now close to the bare muscle and we can only proceed by toughening and increasing that muscle. In the coming year we shall have to produce two-thirds again as much as we did in 1942.—From a bulletin issued by the Office of War Information.

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"Oh, please don't take my picture like this! You see, I have only one uniform, and I sent it to the cleaners. I don't think the army would like to have pictures taken of me in this dress."—Col OVEA CULP HOBBY, commander of the WAACS, to photographers who, calling at a broadcasting studio, found her in civilian attire. The photographers made a later appointment.

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"We are going to make the kind of peace which our allies will let us make, and join with us in making. Of course there is a condition that would let us have the whole voice in dictating the peace. But that condition requires that after we have whipped Italy, Hitler and the Japs, we turn loose and beat the life out of Russia, China, Britain—the whole world."—Sen GERALD P NYE, addressing English-speaking union.

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"Europe says we like to brag—but we can also deliver. We can produce twice as much as Germany and Japan together, and I'm willing to throw in Italy for good measure."—Lt Gen WM S KNUDSEN.

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"We can't look any funnier in skirts than they do in slacks."—Comment of 20 Chicago high school boys who donned feminine apparel in protest against slacks-wearing females.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"Among the many voices you hear, none is more dangerous, none more designed to lull you into complacency than the voice which says that a victory of the United Nations will automatically solve the Jewish problem."—Dr CHAIM WEIZMANN, president, World Zionist Organization.

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"The typical American girl has changed a good deal. Now she has naturalness, vitality, and a charm that does not rub off with her nail polish."—CONRAD THIBAUT, concert baritone and veteran judge of Beauty Contests.

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"The Russian women are passionately in love with the system that gave them freedom. They are more like our pioneer women than we are."—KATHARINE HEPBURN, addressing business and professional women, for Russian War Relief.

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"Trying days are ahead, but such prospects have never before chilled American spirit or stopped American initiative. We feel that as long as these qualities are alive, the American circus, too, will roll on to provide entertainment for the public."—JOHN & HENRY RINGLING NORTH, in a statement to 1600 show people at close of current season.

"If we continue to destroy German planes on an even basis, the result cannot be in doubt. Because of their limited production capacity, the enemy must destroy two of our planes for every one they lose."—H H ARNOLD, commanding Army Air Force.

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"I made a second-class seaman's rating in 2 mos. What more do they want from a man?"—NORMAN SAUL, 14 yr old Philadelphia youth, discharged from the Navy when his mother mailed authorities a birth certificate revealing his age.

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"One may be discouraged at . . . many ominous tendencies in American life, but he cannot be discouraged about the way the common man seems to be understanding and correctly appraising the average American situation."—Dr ROBT A MILLIKIN head of California Inst of Technology.

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"Don't measure this war in terms of money, or even in terms of time. Measure it in terms of American lives."—DONALD NELSON.

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"I still say that this nation doesn't need a 'food czar,' but if we are to have a food administrator, that official should be the Secretary of Agriculture."—CLAUDE R WICKARD, Sec'y of Agriculture, who has been given the administrative post.

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"These people are frightened, but I know of nothing they should be afraid of." — HENRY MORGANTHAU, Sec'y of Treasury, commenting on public hoarding of funds that should be in Victory bonds.

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"To win this war will require oceans of oil."—HAROLD L ICKES, Sec'y of Interior.

Quote

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The African Army
ERNE PYLE

With the American Forces in Algiers.—Many of the red-tapish formalities that are common to the military are cast aside when the army is in the field, moving relentlessly forward. At an American airdrome, where two of us correspondents went to arrange transportation farther east, a major said:

"Aw, to hell with your permits. I haven't got time to look at them. Just camp here in your bedrolls and I'll put you on the first plane going your way."

Many a good clerk in Washington would turn gray at such clerical simplicity.

I wish you could see this airdrome. It is one we captured from the French after hard fighting. Clouds of dust hang over it constantly, raised by the propellers of planes taking off and landing. Fighters circle continuously overhead like protecting hawks. The sky is alive with work planes, rushing stuff to the front.

Luxury liners that once carried you from coast to coast, now stripped down inside and painted olive drab, waddle off the ground with unbelievably big loads of soldiers, ammunition, supplies of all kinds.

Jeeps dash around by the score. Great trucks haul their loads to the doors of planes. Ground crews live in ditches right alongside the runways. Officers throw their bedrolls onto the floor of a barracks building and just step across the road into the darkness for toilet purposes.

The officers are dirty, unshaven and tieless. You can hardly tell them from the privates.

Flat tires are patched right on the field. Great mounds of gasoline cans are stacked about the field.

Life here in town is on a rather ridiculous, half-normal-half-battle basis. I sleep in my bedroll on a hard stone floor, but I can have breakfast served grandly there in bed by a French waiter in a white coat!

AGRICULTURE—Labor

The trouble is, a heap of farm boys who are qualified to be deferred from the draft just won't ask for it. They say if it's their turn to go, they'll be derved if they'll try to slide out. A draft board can't defer a feller unless he asks for it. As the rules stand now, we can argue, but that's all.

We've taken on the biggest feeding job in history. To do it will take every farm hand we can scrape up, or bring in from Mexico and South America. And every one we can make-shift out of golf and card players.—Sgt ALVIN YORK, in his syndicated newspaper feature.

CAMOUFLAGE

The most effective form of camouflage is that known as dazzle painting, intended not to make the ship partially invisible, but to deceive the U-boat as to speed and direction. Properly applied, it can give illusion that ship is sailing at right angles to her real course, or even backward, and that she is traveling at twice her real speed.—HERBERT ASBURY, "We Can Win the Battle of the Atlantic," *Popular Science*, 12-'42.

CHRIST—in Our Lives

Each one of us is an inn, and Jesus Christ. . . approaches, once again seeking lodging. Shall we turn Him away? Violence is not called for. We merely need to leave Him standing there just outside on the door-step. That will be enough. It will mean that He is outside our lives, and soon we, like the inn-keeper of old, will have lost our greatest opportunity.—IVAN H. HARGEDORN, in a Christmas Message, "Missing the Inn," *Pulpit Digest*, 12-'42.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

How can we say "Merry Christmas"—the one word that fits the day—when the earth is full of cruelty, horror, and fear? How can we be merry when so many are in misery, when death takes a thousand shapes on earth, in the air, on the sea, and when stark starvation stalks abroad?

Ah, but that is the secret of Christmas—it knows how to be merry in the midst of misery. The first Christmas day dawned on a hard old Roman world, under Caesar the Dictator, among a subject people in an occupied land, under iron military rule. There was music in heaven and murder on earth; the song celestial and the slaughter of little children by Herod, the monster. The contrast between

inward faith and outward fact, between the beauty of the vision and the brutality of the reality, is hardly more ghastly today than when Jesus lay in the Manger.

Yet Christmas came, bringing its benediction and prophecy. It is not a myth; it is not a mockery. Surviving ages of slaughter, it still haunts us, proving its immortality. If its music seems far off, we know that it is not our own music, but was sent into the soul of man by One who is as far above us as the stars are above the mists.—JOSEPH FORT NEWTON, "Is Goodwill a Casualty?" *Christian Herald*, 12-'42.

COMPROMISE

Chinese love compromise. If you say, "This room is too dark; we must have a window made" they will oppose. If you say, "Let's take off the roof" they will compromise and say, "Let's have a window."—From the Epigrams of "LUSIN" (Chou Shu-jen) translated by LINN YUTANG, *Asia & The Americas*, 12-'42.

COURTESY—Lack

A lot of people have lapsed into small lacks of courtesy during the past few months, and are blaming it all on the war. Too busy with war work and problems, they say, to get this or that done. Better check up on yourself and see whether the shoe fits you.

There's an old axiom: The more you have to do, the more you can get done. How about using the time you spend feeling sorry for yourself to get a couple of these things done?—ADELAIDE KERR, *Wide World Features*.

DRINK—Drinking

Aware that the French were a great drinking race, the Germans who first occupied France tried to reform them by putting up large posters reading: "Beware of alcohol. It kills slowly."

The French scribbled their answer across the sign: "Don't worry. We are not in a hurry."—YANK, AEF newspaper, 12-2-'42.

EDUCATION

The teaching that will win the war. . . has already been done. The teaching that now needs to be done is aimed, if we know what we are doing, at the post-war period.—FRED'K H. BARR, sup't of schools, Bronxville, N. Y.

FRIENDS

Strangers are just friends that you don't know yet.—MARGARET LEE RUNBECK, *Our Miss Boo*, (Appleton, \$2).

The Inside Story of an Outside Chance

Highlight of the CECIL BROWN diary, Suez to Singapore (Random \$3.50) is an eyewitness account of the sinking of the British battleships, Prince of Wales and Repulse. This story, in its essentials is well known. But little has been said as to how these important units of the British Navy came to be in their vulnerable position; the mission upon which they were engaged. On these points, Mr. Brown, CBS correspondent, throws considerable light. His account begins with a mysterious invitation to go on "a four-day assignment." Only one American (Brown,) and one Britisher (O'Dowd Gallagher of London Daily Express) were asked to go. The two correspondents thought they were to board the Prince of Wales; were somewhat disconcerted when put aboard the secondary Repulse. We turn now to Cecil Brown's diary:

When we had finished the tour of the ship we went to the officers' mess and were introduced to Commander Denby, and each of the officers in the wardroom. It was terrifically hot and we were all soaked in perspiration. By then the Repulse and the Prince of Wales and four destroyers were out in the South China Sea, moving north-east. Someone came in and tacked a notice on the bulletin board:

For the Ship's company:

We are off to look for trouble. I expect we shall find it. We may run up against submarines, destroyers, aircraft or surface ships. We are going to carry out a sweep to the northward to see what we can pick up, and what we can roar up. We must all be on our toes.

The signature was that of Captain Tennant. . .

Lieutenant Halton took Gallagher Abrahams (a photographer) and myself up to the bridge to see Captain Tennant. . . The captain explained that we were going around the Malaya coast toward Patani and then northeasterly toward the Indo-China coast. "The Japs are probably bringing their convoys down that route. If we are spotted by their aircraft, the Japanese convoy may turn back, and they will send 2 or 3 battleships, etc., down to meet us. You may make history on this trip—and then again it may not be very important." . . .

I was up on the flag deck at 5:20 this afternoon. For the first time there is a break in thick dark clouds. Far off in the distance an aircraft was sighted. "It's a Jap all right" a lieutenant said, thumbing thru a book of

silhouettes. "That means we have been reported to the enemy." . . .

We're sitting in the wardroom again. The voice on the loudspeaker has just said, "Stand by for the Captain to speak to you."

Captain's Tennant's cool voice came thru: "The Commander-in-Chief very much regrets to announce having to abandon the operation. We were shadowed by 3 planes; spotted after dodging them all day. Their troop convoy will now have dispersed. It would be very obvious that if we continued, enemy concentration would be awaiting us. . . We are, therefore, going back to Singapore." . . .

(Wednesday, Dec. 10) "Why are we changing course?" I asked the lieutenant. As he was about to reply, an answer came thru the loudspeaker: "Men, we have received a message saying the enemy is making a landing at Kuantan. We are going in." That means we intend to shoot up barges and any warships escorting them. Kuantan is 150 miles north of Singapore, on the east coast of Malaya.

EDITORIAL NOTE: It was at this point that Japanese dive bombers, put on the alert, probably, by an exploratory plane released by the Repulse, came in from Kuantan in force, to attack and eventually sink both of the great British battleships. Casualties, you will recall, were extremely heavy. Mr. Brown, and a few members of the crew were rescued from the water, having floated on an improvised raft to one of the destroyers. This catastrophe was highlighted as proof that even the most powerful battleships cannot safely venture afar without adequate escort of fighter planes.

I'd passed two sentries and thought that was all. My mind was home, in Mill Valley, Cal when I heard the challenge.

I tried to think fast—I instinctively put out a hand and said: "Wait a minute, chum, I'll get it"—and started singing: "I wonder what's become of Sally."—SHERMAN MONTROSE, NEA dispatch.



Jap Ship Mystery—Average American keeps hoping Japan will soon crack under "staggering" ship losses. Don't bank on it! Tabulations showing number of ships sunk are deceptive. Average Jap merchantman is only around 2400 gross tons. Much more difficult to sink 20-25,000 tons shipping consisting of 40 or more small vessels than to destroy 3 large Allied cargoes.

On basis Japan's 2400-ton average, transports, supply ships, merchantmen sunk by Allied raiders from Pearl Harbor to early Oct total 490,000 gross tons. But set average of those destroyed at 4000 tons, very high for Japan, and total is only 75,000 tons a mo—less than Jap ship yards can replace.

Remember, too, Japan has shipped millions of tons of commodities in junks and other small craft. She can and will revert to these boats for civil supplies.—PAUL WOHL, "Japan's Invisible Shipping Reserve," *Christian Science Monitor*. 11-28-'42).

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Battle of Bread—Four new Horsemen have joined the riders of the Apocalypse, says HERBERT HOOVER ("We'll Have to Feed the World Again," *Collier's*, 11-28-'42). Their names are Revolution, Unemployment, Suspicion and Hate. We'll have to feed them if we want peace instead of anarchy.

Europe in peacetime has to import large amounts of food. Under pressure of war, crops decline; manpower and horsepower are drained; fertilizer diverted to explosives; flocks and herds are slaughtered. To all this, add ravages of armies; scorched-earth policies.

Nor will famine be limited to Europe. These causes are at work in Asia and Russia. Over 500,000,000 people will be suffering from some degree of food shortage after this war. Tactics and strategy of feeding these peoples will not differ much from last post-war period. It's gigantic governmental operation, not "welfare" work of benevolent bread lines. There will not be enough meats and fats to go around on normal basis of consumption. Therefore, there must be tight controls during emergency period.

INGENUITY

I had a bad moment last night. Marines are on guard (on Guadalcanal) and when they demand the pass word, you give it fast to beat them to the draw.

Passwords change every night—and they usually have a double ll in them, because the Jap tongue can't pronounce it.

News of the New

AVIATION: U S has some secret new planes that, in the words of Maj Nathaniel F Silsbee, are "enough to make the angels gasp". A score of revolutionary fighters, bombers, transports are under test.

Army air force has now set up what are known as "modification centers" for purpose of making wholesale alterations in planes after manufacture. These are changes demanded by new battle conditions. Thus, product will always be right up to last tick of clock. In addition to installing newest guns, etc, these centers make such changes as are necessary to fit planes for special service. Those for Egyptian desert are being painted dusty pink.

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INVENTION: ODT has designed, and stores are now offering a Victory Shoulder Sack. It's brown paper, container with over-shoulder strap, designed for carrying small purchases. Stores will give them gratis as service.

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MEDICINE: In launching British Empire cancer campaign, last week, Lord Horder, noted physician said: "We are now so close to secret of cancer that we shall be able to hand the cure to our children."

In Chicago, last week, Radiological Society of North America heard report of two N Y physicians that drinking large quantities of whites of eggs had had beneficial effect on 3 advanced cases of cancer. Drs pointed out that experiment produced no claim for a "cancer cure." Merely opens field for further research.

Mysterious new lung disease, which we some time ago referred to as "x-type pneumonia" because it does not respond to treatment with sulfa drugs, was also discussed at length by Radiological gathering. Physicians fear it could cause epidemic comparable to 1918 influenza spread.

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SURGERY: New weapon to fight burns of war is a skin-graft knife, permitting easier, quicker, larger skin grafts. This knife, mentioned here at time of invention, is now in production. Safety razor blades provide cutting edge. Four blades fit into holder which floats between guides of the knife frame. A screw sets depth of skin to be cut. Needles and retractors stretch skin taut. Large grafts of uniform thickness can be cut with little bleeding. Dr Poth, U of Texas medical school, is inventor.

LANGUAGE—German

We observe that a man called Uncle Robert, a professional friend of the kiddies, has begun a campaign to replace the word "kindergarten," which he spurns as German in origin, with some American equivalent. Working on a hunch, we looked up "Robert" in our Webster's Unabridged. It turned out to be German in origin, too, and means "bright in counsel." We would suggest to Uncle Bright in Counsel that before he gets down to changing the name "kindergarten," he should rescue his own name from the enemy.—*The New Yorker*, 11-14-'42.

MAPS—Need for

You are safe in using a flat map to study a limited area, but when you try to understand world distances and directions from flat maps alone, it's something like trying to get the "feel" of a baseball from its cover peeled off and spread flat.—Otto E. GEPPERT, "You Need a New Map," *Rotarian*, 12-'42.

MONEY—Squandering

William Allen White, founder of the *Emporia (Kansas) Gazette*, was reminiscing recently on the subject of his early struggles as a publisher. "Once in a great while" he said, "a 'foreign' advertising contract would come our way, and I would indulge foolish dreams of earmarking that check for a new font of type, or maybe paying the ink bill up to the first of last year. But before I realized what was happening, the money would be frittered away for bread and meat."

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

The Nazis are thoroughly fed up with the number of young Franklins and Winstons running around in the Netherlands. Hereafter, registrars are ordered to record only "chosen names against which there is no objection or, otherwise, the first name of the father or mother."—*Knickerbocker Weekly*, 11-30-'42.

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"That is the Englishman's place" was the answer given to a traveler in Flanders who, when invited to a dinner at a friend's house, remarked that there was a vacant chair at the table. His host explained that the custom of reserving a place for "den Engelschman", to whom his countrymen look for the liberation of Belgium, is widespread.—*News from Belgium*, 11-21-'42.



Although there is no direct connection, OPA promptly seized upon Boston fire as dramatic incident to preach peril of hoarding gasoline in homes or business houses. More practical warning is given by fire wardens who point out that practically all fire insurance policies carry clause invalidating policy if substantial quantities of inflammables are stored on premises.

New regulations releasing men over 38 from active military service occasioned no surprise in informed circles. Experience with older men has been very unsatisfactory. Condition is not so much physical as mental. In recent group tests, about half of men over 40 have been rejected by psychiatrists as unfit, mentally, for disciplined army life. Some may be brilliant in civil life; might eventually make good officers. But, in the words of one examiner: "As a private in the ranks, the chances are nine to one he would go amok." As we have previously pointed out, gov't wants to sidestep responsibility of contributing to delinquencies, and supporting huge number of psychiatric cases at war's end.

Mothers are much concerned over spread of "Victory Girl" movement. Too many kids of 15-16 are dating soldiers promiscuously, as "patriotic" gesture. . . . Inability to secure new supplies is gradually putting "dope" peddlers out of business. Addicts have turned, from morphine to paregoric but that's getting scarce. Marijuana is now the big threat.

Faced by defeat of its poll-tax bill in Congress, Administration is now preparing to have validity of state anti-poll tax legislation tested by decision of Supreme Court. Eight Southern states affected.

WPB survey of newlyweds discloses that comparatively few plan normal domestic life. Many are war marriages; in other cases, both couples will continue working. Of 70 couples interviewed in Chicago, not one expressed intention of buying a garbage can.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

When Jews living in the town of Hilversum were forced to move to Amsterdam, preparatory to their mass deportation their luggage was limited to small handbags. A week later one Jewish citizen returned to Hilversum, in the hope of removing at least some of his most valued belongings. He found his home completely empty—even the plumbing removed.

Soon afterward, a long string of railway cars left for Germany, piled high with furniture. The train bore a huge placard reading: "Gifts from the Netherlands people to the poor Germans who were bombed out of house and home by the English."—*Netherlands News*, 10-26-'42.



That education, whether of black man or white man, that gives one physical courage to stand in front of a cannon, and fails to give him moral courage to stand up in defense of right and justice is a failure.—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

VIEWPOINT

There's a moral in the complaint by the owner of a men's clothing emporium: "My buyer" he said, "wears a size 40 suit, his tastes are conservative, and he likes tan color and a light-weight suit. As a result, I've got more size 40, conservative, tan light weight suits than I'll ever be able to sell without 2 or 3 big special sales."—"The Schoolmaster's Classroom," *Printer's Ink*, 11-20-'42.

WAR—Securities

This Christmas, Americans will send their families and friends more than one billion Christmas cards.

A ten-cent War Savings Stamp on each of these cards will fill 20 million War Stamp Books, and start a million more! Enough to put more than 100 million dollars in the U. S. Treasury! Enough to buy 500 long-range

American Scene

The Unmaking of Mr. McLemore

HENRY MCLEMORE

The obstacle course at Athen, Ga., which is used to condition the youngsters who'll soon be wearing gold wings is 608 yards long and is laid out over a terrain that a wart hog would have trouble traveling over, even with the use of an alpenstock. There are thirty obstacles or death traps on the course.

I was only joking when I said I would like to have a try at the course, but Lieutenant Charley Burton took me seriously.

You start the course at a desk. The official timer sits at the desk, flanked by a pair of gentlemen whose duty it is, I am sure, to notify the next of kin and handle and calls from the insurance company.

The first obstacle is comparatively simple, being nothing more than a log hurdle that a Grand National steeplechase entry wouldn't jump without a blindfold and a fire underneath him. You no sooner get over this than you must jump into a deep pit and try to get out. I was in this pit so long I began growing a coat like a mole. I finally got out. After that was a tremendous pile of logs and you either had to go through of over them.

Somehow I managed to get myself squarely in the middle of this log jam. Faint cries of encouragement reached my ears, but I was stuck. I was in this rustic setting for so long that termites began eyeing me, thinking I was a log. This must be the end, I thought, as I finally escaped, but it was only

the beginning. A bear trap loomed up—a huge stockade of logs.

"Don't let him in there," I heard some one cry as I struggled up the sides. "He'll be in there forever. The state will have to feed him."

As I toppled into the trap I prayed that a bear would really be in there and put me out of my misery. But there was no bear and I had to carry on to the rope swing, a device by which you are supposed to swing yourself over a rocky ravine and land on a soft cushion of boulders.

"Thank goodness I was smart enough to pay that little extra for double indemnity," I said to myself as I swung out over the canyon. Many's the McLemore that has swung by a rope, but there always was some one there to cut them down. I was out there alone, dangling over a man-made Grand Canyon, so I let loose. I would have let loose even if the entire Japanese army had been waiting for me below.

That was my last obstacle. Tenderly they lifted me from the rocks and laid me out on the Georgia soil from whence I had sprung, while scouting parties went in search of my blue serge suit. The vest they found in the bear trap. One trousers leg still fluttered from the log pile. My tie whipped from a splinter on the wall climb.

When consciousness returned I asked the timekeeper how I had done.

"A new record," he announced. "You started on Friday and reached here on Saturday. You are the only competitor we have had to use a calendar on."—*McNaught Syndicate*.

bombers! Enough to buy 2,500 fast fighter planes! Enough to buy 1,000 sixty-ton tanks. Enough to buy 3 heavy cruisers!

... So, this year of war, let's add a Victory note to our customary Christmas greetings... Let's put a War Savings Stamp on every card we send!—*From an advertisement of CALVERT DISTELLERS CORP.*

WORKERS—in Wartime

The personnel man of a Chicago drug chain threatened to buy a quantity of dolls for his soda fountain girls to play with during rest periods—they seemed that young to him. But they

are doing the job.—EUGENE WHITMORE, "Business Dares Washington Match Its Will to Win," *American Business*, 10-'42.

WOMEN—Instructors

Many of our fighting planes are piloted by men who were first taught to fly by women, expert CAA instructors. When asked if he objected to women teachers, one matter of fact young chap replied, "Why should I? A woman taught me to walk. Why shouldn't one teach me to fly?"—*From an advertisement of R. H. MACY & Co., N Y dept store.*

GENS FROM Yesteryear

On With the War

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

This echo from the past might well have been voiced by today's radio commentator. These words of urgency were spoken by Mr. Roosevelt before the Maine Convention of the Republican party, March 28, 1918. At an early date, from the same source, we shall give you a prophetic counsel on the perils of peace.

This is the people's war. It is not the President's war. It is not Congress's war. It is the war of the people of the United States for the honor and welfare of America and of mankind. This is a war on behalf of treaties as against scraps of paper; it is a war on behalf of small well-behaved nations against the domineering and infinitely cruel arrogance of the brutal and scientific German militarism; a war for civilization against barbarism, honor against infamy, right against wrong; a war against the powers of darkness, of death and of hell. . . . No man can advocate submission to Germany now without proving false to the spirit of the men of 1776. Germany has waged war with utter faithfulness and with inhuman cruelty. The black infamy of her conduct has no parallel in civilized history since the close of the dreadful wars of religion in the seventeenth century. . . .

Our first business now is to put through the war, and therefore to speed up the war. Make our effort in ships, men, guns, airplanes felt abroad at the earliest possible moment. Let us realize the grim truth that unless our men now fight triumphantly beside our allies, some day or other we shall have to fight at home, despairingly and without allies. Our resources are so immense that in the end we shall begin to count in spite of all our shortcomings; but as long as we think of the war as 3,000 miles away, and as long as some of the most important divisions of the executive branch of the government continue almost chemically pure of efficient organization, our strength will be exerted at a terrible disadvantage. War is won by brains and steel, not by kid gloves and fine phrases.

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

A scenarist was summoned by his producer the other day. "Your script is fine" beamed the biggie "but we'll have to make a few changes because of Hays Office rules. We must switch the registry of the ship because Panama is a friendly nation. The captain can't be a Mexican because he's a heel in the story. We must find another way to kill the victim because there can't be loose weapons aboard ship. And the leading man can't be English because he's called bad names by the heroine's brother and the English won't like that. Also, I don't think we can get away with those hot love scenes. What do you think we should do?" "I don't know what you're going to do," said the writer, wearily, "but I'm going to join the army!"—JIMMIE FIDDLER, in his Hollywood newspaper column.

"I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

JEFFREY LYNN

A clubwoman went one afternoon to bring cheer to the mentally sick. In one room she observed a man holding a stick, to which was tied a piece of string. He was dangling this in the sink.

"Well, my good man," the clubwoman said brightly, "and what are you doing?"

"Fishing," he answered, not looking around.

"That's fine," she said. "Are you catching anything?"

He gave her a baleful glance over his shoulder. "Don't be silly. In the sink?"

A young officer, back on furlough from the Pacific, was the honored guest of a group of friends at New York's celebrated Stork Club. It was his first visit to the spectacular night club, and he was a bit dazed by the display, particularly the elegance of feminine apparel. "Ah" he remarked, casting an appraising eye at neighboring tables, "A silver fox hole!"

The story now can be told of how two German bombing planes landed on the deck of an American tanker in the Mediterranean—and the tanker lived to tell the tale.

It happened in a convoy to Malta, when British and American ships attempted to get reinforcements to the tiny island.

One of these ships, an American tanker, was attacked by German bombers, and the action, according to official accounts, was "hot."

Suddenly, a JU-88 bomber struck the water beside the ship, bounced and by some freak came to rest on the bow of the vessel. But the tanker plowed on.

Half an hour later, the first officer called the captain by the ship's telephone and reported frantically that a Stuka dive bomber had landed on the rear deck of the ship.

The captain affected boredom. "That's nothing," he said, "I've had a bomber on the foredeck for half an hour!"

Note—The ship reached Malta and delivered its precious cargo of aviation gasoline.—DREW PEARSON, *Washington Merry-go-Round*.

WISECRACKS of the Week

"Think twice before you speak"—and the other fellow will invariably beat you to the draw and monopolize the conversation.—OLIN MILLER.

I understand Mussolini has swapped his military books for a copy of Houdini's escape tricks.—DAVE BOONE.

"His heart ain't in shape to stand severe shock" Doc Konk warned Grandpa Hipple's folks. "He shouldn't run, lift nothin' heavy, er price second-hand tires."—TODE TUTTLE.

